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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/868,554	09/14/2001	Taro Imagawa	29288.1300	1530

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EXAMINER

DESIRE, GREGORY M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2627

DATE MAILED: 12/05/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/868,554

Applicant(s)

IMAGAWA ET AL.

Examiner

Gregory M. Desire

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 September 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 12-16, 18, 19 and 21 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8, 10, 11, 17 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 9 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 September 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9/14/01</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communication filed 9/7/05.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant argues (remark page 12 lines 6-8) Tanaka in view of Katsuyama fails to teach a plurality of elements having the possibility of being concatenated. This argument is not persuasive because it is the position of the examiner Tanaka discloses a plurality of element having the possibility of concatenated (note col. 4 lines 18-25, character elements generated by grouping string examiner interprets as concatenated).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 8, 10-11, 17 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka (5,825,926) in view of Katsuyama et al (5,625,710).

Regarding claims 8, 17 and 20 Tanaka discloses,

Specific character element of the plurality of character elements (string), character elements at a plurality of locations having the possibility of being concatenated with the specific character element are predetermined (note Tanaka col. 4

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lines 18-25, examiner interpret retrieving character string from prepared dictionary shows the grouping of a string being predetermined).

However, Tanaka is silent disclosing matching between character elements string and second character element string. Katsuyama discloses having a degree of similarity being defined as matching (note col. 14 lines 20-35). Therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to define similarity as matching in the system of Tanaka. Reducing processing time, would have been a highly desirable feature in the character retrieval art due to its efficiency and Katsuyama recognizes reducing processing time would be expected when degrees of similarity is defined as matching in the system of Tanaka.

Regarding claims 10 and 11 Tanaka and Katsuyama discloses,

Wherein the specific character element is located at an end of a row or column, the plurality of character elements having the possibility of being concatenated with the specific character element are each located at a head of row or column (Tanaka col. 4 lines 15-30, examiner interprets a string has possibility of being group with specific character located at the head of row or column).

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1-7, 12-16, 18-19 and 21 are allowed.
6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance for independent claims 1, 16 and 19. The prior art fails to disclose the third character element is selected when the distance with the character element of the designated second character element string is within a predetermined range with respect to a reference distance that is an acceptable value of predetermined distance based on a reliability when character recognizing the first character element. Claims 2- 7 depend on claim 1. Therefore are also allowable.

Regarding independent claim 12, 18 and 21, prior art fails to disclose obtaining a probability that a search result matches a second character element string, based on the number of the second character element string, and a number of the second character elements, which is a character recognition result including errors, match corresponding first character element out of the second character elements included in the second character elements. Claims 13-15 depend on claim 12. Therefore are also allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

7. Claim 9 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Regarding claim 9, the prior art fails to teach possibility of being concatenated with specific character element. This in combination with other limitation is not taught in the prior art.

Conclusion

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory M. Desire whose telephone number is (571) 272-7449. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (6:30-3:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bhavesh Mehta can be reached on (571) 272-7453. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Gregory M. Desire
Examiner
Art Unit 2627

G.D.
November 23, 2005



SANJIV SHAH
PRIMARY EXAMINER